



CITY OF SOUTH BEND
STEPHEN J. LUECKE, MAYOR
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 4, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding 03-167

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 17, 2003, SBC Indiana applied to your agency for permission to provide long distance service in the State of Indiana. I am writing in support of that application and encourage you to approve it so Indiana consumers and businesses will see the same benefits of open telecommunications competition that customers in other states are already realizing. Many other telecommunications companies, such as AT&T and MCI WorldCom, offer long distance and local service in the St. Joseph County area. I think SBC should be afforded the same opportunity.

Section 271 of the 1996 Telecommunications law, as you are aware, requires Regional Bell companies - like SBC - to prove that the local market is open to competition before they can enter the long distance market. The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission did a thorough job of investigating and ensuring that competition exists in Indiana before they issued their preliminary approval. I am pleased that the matter is finally before the FCC. I hope the FCC acts swiftly and approves the application so that consumers in Indiana will have more choices and save money.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Luecke
Mayor, City of South Bend